

First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Willis R. Booth
Minister

October 7, 1941

Roland B. Wurster
Clerk of Session

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
~~Board~~ of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

Our friends in Juneau are very greatly disturbed over the way in which Rev. Walter A. Soboleff is seemingly getting into deep water over the Thlinget-Haida Land Suit. I am enclosing two letters which recently were sent to all members of the Alaska Native Brotherhood of which Walter is Treasurer.

Perhaps you will recall a certain conversation you had at Ketchikan. These letters went into the mail since then.

The Land Suit is an act of Congress. I understand that as such it is required by the Federal Government that all funds collected and disbursed for this cause be handled by a Federal representative, who of course would be properly bonded. Walter is neither the appointed representative nor bonded. For him to handle the money in any way is illegal, and should the Federal Government send an investigator to Juneau on this case, it would prove very embarrassing to Walter and to the Church because of his being one of our ministers.

From the fallacies contained in the letter signed by attorney William L. Paul Jr. it is evident serious trouble is ahead. I would like to see Walter saved from the mess.

Last night I had a talk with Leslie Yaw and he has promised to take the matter up with Mr. Andrew Hope who is President of the Alaska Native Brotherhood.

Our friends in Juneau expressed the feeling that a word to Walter from you would cause him to resign as Treasurer and thus save him and the Church much embarrassment.

I do not feel I can say anything to Walter about it as yet.

Cordially yours,

Willis
Willis R. Booth.

First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Willis R. Booth
Minister

October 7, 1941

Roland B. Wurster
Clerk of Session

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

Isabel and I spent a most enjoyable week-end in Juneau. We left here Friday and returned Monday, both ways by plane. We were royally received and entertained. They are very fine people.

The morning service was attended by ninety people in spite of the fact of continual rain all day. The Officers told me that was a fine attendance. It should have been more than double, and I believe can be built to capacity. There were only sixty-five at Sunday school. That too should have been more than double.

In the afternoon we went through the manse. It is a wretched building, inside and out. I understand it was built prior to 1907, and it looks like nothing has been done to it but add another layer of paint to the already many coats. It is very much below the level of the homes of the congregation in which it was our privilege to visit.

They offered me only \$2000.00 and manse. I have informed them I would not consider their call for less than \$2400.00 and manse, and then they will have to do something about the manse. The whole matter has been left for consideration by both parties concerned.

The manse in Sitka is very much superior to the one in Juneau in every respect in spite of our furnace problem in Sitka.

No decision has been reached at either end of the line.

I very greatly appreciate the words you and Dr. Smith put in in my behalf. If they will meet my terms, I will accept the call. Meanwhile, there is nothing further I can say, but will keep you informed.

Cordially yours,

Willis

Willis R. Booth.

First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

October 7, 1941

Willis R. Booth
Minister

Roland B. Wurster
Clerk of Session

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

Upon my return from Juneau Mr. Yaw showed me your telegram of October 3rd relative to a possible gift for soldier's recreation hall in Sitka. We immediately sent you a telegram a copy of which is enclosed.

The City of Sitka has appointed a committee of which I am a member, to erect or otherwise provide a recreational hall for enlisted men. This committee is now at work and two possible plans are under consideration. One is to erect a new building which later will be used by the city, and the other is to convert the Baranoff Castle into such a place. In either case an appropriation from the Federal Government is available. It is the common feeling in Sitka that this larger effort should be a community wide effort as the maintenance and operation would be had by the United Service Organization.

A Church recreational room would be very desirable. However, in the light of the community effort, Mr. Yaw and I feel that if possible, it would be better to build a new Presbyterian Church building in Sitka in which would be provided a room which can be used by the enlisted men and by the young people. Therefore we recommended, if possible, the gift referred to in your telegram be transferred to the Church building fund.

While it would be possible for us to erect some kind of a building for recreational purposes, the cost of maintenance and operation would be no little item. We do not know the source from which the operating cost would come.

It is our prayer that you may find it possible to transfer this gift of \$2500 to the Church building fund.

Cordially yours,

Willis

Willis R. Booth.

First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Willis R. Booth
Minister

October 14, 1941

Roland B. Wurster
Clerk of Session

This month carried with it the joy of the dedication of the motorship PRINCETON-HALL, which took place on Sunday, September 21. The guest of honor was the Moderator of the General Assembly, Rev. Dr. Herbert Booth Smith. The Church gave a dinner in honor of Dr. Smith on September 20 at which were invited the out-of-town guests, members of the Presbytery, and adult members of the Church. 115 people sat together in the dining room of Sheldon Jackson School.

The Presbytery of Alaska met in this Church on Saturday, September 20.

Sunday, October 5, I preached in the Juneau-Northern Light Church. Rev. Mr. Verne J. Swanson filled the pulpit of the Sitka, Church.

The Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday evening, October 12. The congregation voted to decrease the asking from the Board of National Missions for the year beginning as of October 1, 1941, by 17.5 percent, making the asking \$850.00. From the balance on hand in the treasury, \$150.00 was transferred to the Building Fund. The Congregation also accepted the Benevolence quota suggested by Presbytery's Committee of \$550.00.

Willis R. Booth

First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

October 14, 1941

Willis R. Booth
Minister

Roland B. Wurster
Clerk of Session

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

Of course I have heard nothing from the Northern Light Church at Juneau since my visit with them on October 5. That takes time. However, I quote from an article published in The Empire, of Juneau, October 11:

"A meeting of the Pulpit and Supply Committee of the Northern Light Presbyterian Church is scheduled to be held after the Church service tomorrow morning to consider recommending the Rev. Willis R. Booth of Sitka to the congregation.

This committee consists of the elders, trustees and heads of the various departments of the Church. Following the committee's recommendation of Rev. Booth, a week's notice will be given for a meeting of the congregation to extend the formal call to the Rev. Booth as pastor of the Church."

I wrote them upon my return to Sitka I would accept the call on the basis of \$2400.00 salary and manse, moving expenses for family and household goods, and participation in the pension plan. Perhaps I will hear something from them before long. The above article quotation would sound as though they will extend the call.

The Congregational meeting of the Sitka Church was held Sunday, October 12, when the congregation elected Mr. Glennwood D. Platt, Superintendent of the Territorial School, elder to replace Mr. Raymond L. Wolfe.

Also, a reduction in the share of the Board of National Missions toward the minister's salary was made amounting to \$180.00, or 17.5 percent. An application is being sent through the regular channel for the Board to pay \$850.00 to the salary this year instead of \$1030 as last year.

\$150 was taken from the treasury balance and placed in the building fund.

The Benevolence budget quota of \$550 was also adopted. All of which is rather encouraging.

710/12
60 58.33
115
96
40

5
1800
850-
750-
850/12
84 70.8
100
96
40

I have your letter regarding the programs for the dedication. You are correct that the amount of this bill has been paid from the PRINCETON-HALL funds by Mr. Leslie Yaw.

As per your request, I am placing in the mail this week a copy of the program to each contributor in the States as listed on the last page of the program.

Mr. Andrew Wanamaker is now living in Sitka and has taken a job with the Seims-Drake Construction Company at Japonski Island. He told me he plans to work here for the next two years.

Perhaps you heard over the Radio of the terrible explosion at the Naval Air Base last Sunday afternoon. It occurred at 1:15 P. M. It seems a fire broke out in one of the powder dumps, and just as the fire truck arrived and was halted by the Marine guard, the whole thing blew up and killed six men, one of whom was Captain Allen whom you met that Saturday afternoon of your trip around the Island.

Perhaps you will recall the last two powder dumps we saw on the trip. They were across the road from where the new road is being build across the channell toward the outside. They were the closest to the residences. Both of these dumps were destroyed. The accounts released by Radio are greatly exaggerated, nevertheless, the concussion in Sitka was terrific, breaking many windows. No damage was done on the campus or to the manse.

There is now further development in regard to the furnace in the manse. Mr. Stuart is still trying to find some way of correction for it.

Cordially yours,

Willis

Willis R. Booth.

First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Willis R. Booth
Minister

October 20, 1941

Roland B. Wurster
Clerk of Session

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

Yesterday, I sent you a telegram advising you I have received the call from the Juneau, Northern Light Church. Their congregational meeting was held Sunday, October 19, at the close of the worship service, with Rev. Walter Soboleff as moderator. They have agreed to pay me \$2400.00, with manse, one month vacation, and Pension Plan. They also request me to begin there November 15, which I will plan to do if it meets with your approval. Of course it will depend somewhat upon the sailing of the MS Northland which is the only boat now going from Sitka to Juneau. The Northland is due in Sitka November 12.

I hope you have found a young man to come to Sitka and that he may arrive as soon as possible that the work here may not suffer from undue delay.

While you were in Sitka last month, and while we were discussing the possibility of my going to Juneau, I mentioned some of the improvements I had made about the manse property. Those I made for personal use I do not intend to mention again. However, I have made some improvements because I planned to be here for five years, and which were badly needed. I now list them for your consideration.

I have weatherstripped all the windows and the front door in an effort to shut out the cold air and aid in heating the house. The metal weatherstripping cost me \$21.00.

There were no electric outlets in the house except the cords from the ceiling. Seven of these were put into the baseboards at a cost of \$7.55 which includes the metal recepticle box and wiring.

We had ordered four window shades which had not arrived when you were here. These cost \$3.58.

While other improvements have been made, these are the only ones I would permit you to consider. The above improvements represent an out put of \$32.13.

↓ 10/31/41
Alaska. Bldg. + Equip. Fund

Now that I am moving to Juneau to be the pastor of the Northern Light Church which does not receive aid from the Board, I will be in a position to render a greater service to you. I hope you will permit me to go to the limit in aiding the Board of National Missions in the Alaskan task. Please use me as freely as you will, and know that I am always open to any suggestion from you.

I suppose it is in order for me to formally resign to you the pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church of Sitka, Alaska, which I now do. The same to take effect November 15 if agreeable to you.

The copies of the dedication program have been placed in the mail and addressed to the donors to the Princeton-Hall as listed on the program and also the donors list to whom we sent invitations. The envelopes and postage amounting to \$3.13 was paid for by Leslie Yaw from the Princeton-Hall Fund.

Cordially yours,

Willis

Willis R. Booth.

October 23, 1941

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. Willis R. Booth
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Willis:

I am very muchly interested in the suggestion that you made that the City of Sitka is going to provide a recreational hall for the enlisted men. Will you please supply me with the detailed information as the plans are developed?

The \$2500. that I offered could not possibly be used in providing a new Presbyterian Church Building. I am sorry but this money comes from an altogether different source.

In regard to Walter Soboleff and the Thlinget-Haida Land Suit - I think Leslie Yaw can handle that better than any other person. It seems to me that Walter is playing with dynamite and I truly trust that he may have his eyes opened before it is too late. After Yaw makes his effort if you still feel that a word from me would be helpful, I shall be glad to communicate directly with Walter.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

October 31, 1941

Rev. Mr. Willis R. Booth
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Willis:

Enclosed you will find a check for \$32.13 to cover the items that you listed in your letter of October 20th. I think you are certainly entitled to reimbursement for this expenditure.

I think I have a man to follow you in Sitka. I am hoping that we can have him on the field by December first or soon thereafter.

You have been a great help to me in Sitka and I believe that you will be a greater help when you are established in Juneau.

I want to express again my appreciation of you and for you. You are a faithful, loyal soul, one that encourages the heart of a person who has administrative responsibility.

You might be interested in knowing, too, that the Rotenberrys are seriously considering going to Skagway.

I have a request to make of you that involves the Auk Lake situation. As soon as it is possible for you to do so, after you are in Juneau, I want you to look over the Auk Lake situation and write me your confidential opinion. I have a feeling that we are sinking money in this project without any justification for so doing. I will want you to go over this territory and be able to speak with some degree of authority behind you before giving me the opinion.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

ALASKA

First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

November 1, 1941

Willis R. Booth
Minister

Roland B. Wurster
Clerk of Session

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

Thank you for your letters of October 22nd and 23rd.

Plans were about completed for the remodeling of Baranof Castle to be used as a recreational center for the enlisted men, when the City of Sitka proposed a plan for the erection of a building on Main Street which would house not only the recreational rooms, but also the City offices. The appropriation for this project is now being considered and a word concerning it should be coming soon.

Meanwhile, the Baranof Castle is being used under the direction of both the American Legion and the Salvation Army. Mr. Russell Clithero, manager of the Sitka Hotel, is chairman of the City's recreational committee.

Regarding Walter Soboleff -- I spoke to Leslie Yaw about the case and he told me he does not feel he can say anything to Walter about it, however, he said as Andrew Hope is President of the Brotherhood, he would talk to him about it. The result is, that to date, nothing has been done.

Yesterday, Mrs. Luella Smith, of The Photo Shop, gave me the bill for the several individual picture I had taken. They were of Leslie Yaw, Paul Prouty, Verne J. Swanson, Andrew Hope and me. These were mailed to you from Juneau on October 3rd. I trust you have them by now. These picture have not been paid for as yet.

Cordially yours,

Willis

*Paul Prouty
Andrew Hope*

First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

November 8, 1941

Willis R. Booth
Minister

Roland B. Wurster
Clerk of Session

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

Officially, my service with the First Presbyterian Church of Sitka will terminate on November 15, and my salary from the Sitka Church will be paid to that date.

*Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.*

At the meeting of the Session last night, your letter to Leslie Yaw concerning Rev. Arthur M. Bily was read, and while the Session wants to join you in your choice, at the same time they expressed the hope you might find it convenient to send Harry Champlin here from Wrangle and send Mr. Bily to take his place. I have the feeling they are too late in expressing their desire in the matter, for I have the feeling that Mr. Bily is already on his way.

Mrs. Booth presented the Session with the collections she has made on the piano for the manse. The total \$75.00 has now been made. She also informed them of your kindness in promising to pay the remaining \$100.00, so that the piano may now become the property of the manse.

Acting upon the faith of this arrangement, the Session has instructed the Treasurer to pay to Mr. Baker, the piano dealer, the sum of \$175.00 for the piano upon his arrival in Sitka in the very near future. He is due here now. Upon receipt of your cheque for \$100.00, the treasury will be reimbursed. May I suggest that your cheque be sent to Mr. Yaw who will deposit it with the treasury, and thus close the matter.

Please accept the thanks of Mrs. Booth and me for your help in this matter.

Cordially yours,

Willis

November 25, 1941

Rev. Mr. Willis R. Booth
Northern Light Church
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Willis:

Thank you for your letters of November 1st and 8th. We are sending a check for \$100. to Mr. Yaw to take care of the final payment on the piano. Congratulations to your wife for making that contribution. I am glad to have that piano remain in the manse. I think it would be most helpful.

I am returning the bill for the Photo Shop to Mr. Yaw, asking him to pay it.

I hope that your work in Juneau starts out and continues to be the answer to your heart's desire. May the Lord bless you and richly use you.

As soon as you have the time please let me have your personal opinion of the work that we are doing at Auk Lake. Remember I made that request several weeks ago.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

The Church

P. O. Box 3020
Juneau, Alaska
November 28, 1941

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

I have today received your letter of October 31 and was very pleased to hear from you. Thank you for the Cheque for \$32.13.

We are most happily situated in the manse in Juneau. The church officers laid new hemlock floors in three rooms on the first floor and sanded the fourth floor, then they painted all the walls and wood work so that one would hardly know the place as over against its former appearance. The people have been most kind to us in every respect and already the work is taking shape.

You will rejoice with me that next Sunday there is a class uniting with the Church, which class is made up of eleven young people and five adults, sixteen in all. Ten of these are coming by profession of faith. Next week Mrs. Booth and I are holding a young people's social for the purpose of organizing a young people's society.

You will be interested in the fact that Walter Soboleff has been sick in bed with a cold all this week. And speaking of Walter, Leslie Yaw would not speak to him about the matter of which I wrote you. However, I think it is cleared for the future. At the recent meeting of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, another man was elected to the office of Treasurer. I am glad for this action.

Mrs. Andrew Wanamaker, who has been in the hospital here for the past month, died this morning. For the present, Andrew will make his home in Juneau with his daughter, Mrs. Roy Pretovitch. I think he would appreciate a word from you even though he is not a lay worker at present.

I shall be glad to go over the Auk Lake situation very thoroughly and then give you my opinion. I will do this immediately, but will take time enough so as not to form any snap judgement.

I am glad Mr. Bily will be going to Sitka soon. We have been

November 28, 1941

on the look-out for him as we would like to meet him.

It pleases us greatly to think of the prospect of having the Rotenberrys at Skagway. I hope ~~he~~ will accept for he is a good man and will do this Presbytery a great good. I shall appreciate knowing when he accepts and when he will be passing through Juneau.

I very greatly appreciate your good words about me, and I cherish the privilege of working very closely with you in the Alaskan National Mission task. I am always at your service.

Cordially yours,

Willis

Willis R. Booth.

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. E. E. BROMLEY, CH.
HOONAH, ALASKA

UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. J. A. GLASSE
JUNEAU, ALASKA

FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV. VERNE J. SWANSON
HYDABURG, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
REV. E. E. KNUDSEN
SKAGWAY, ALASKA

PENSIONS
REV. ALFRED D. SWIGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

STATED CLERK
REV. ALFRED D. SWIGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Monthly Report for First Presbyterian Church Sitka, Alaska.

The work of the Church went on in spite of the fact that I was making plans for moving to Juneau. Three new members were received into the Church by transfer of membership from churches in the States. Mrs. Booth had been busy for several months raising money with which to purchase the old Webster piano for the Manse. With the aid of Dr. Everett B. King, this was finally accomplished and the deal was closed. This piano is to remain in the manse as part of the permanent equipment. The Church has paid me the full amount of salary to the 15th of November, the date my services ceased. Since that date, I have received from the Board of National Missions their salary cheque to November 15. On November 16 I began serving as pastor of Northern Light Presbyterian Church of Juneau, Alaska. This is the beginning of greater activities for me and a greater service to the Board of National Missions.

Willis R. Booth

P. O. Box 3020,
Juneau, Alaska
December 1, 1941

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

So far as I have been able to discover, the Northern Light Presbyterian Church has not been using any of the Church's special day materials. May I ask that this Church be placed on the standing order mailing list to receive from the Central Distributing Department all the materials published for Church distribution that I may be assured of the shipment in time for use on the proper day. This is the same arrangement you have set up for the mission Churches in Alaska. 1/4/42

Also, please send me the following materials:

Bulletin # 1 - THE PASTOR AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Bulletin # 2 - THE CHURCH COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
The CHURCH AS A SCHOOL - Munro
THE UP-TO-DATE SUNDAY SCHOOL - Russell
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN THE SMALL CHURCH - Sherrill
PROGRAMS FOR WORKERS' CONFERENCES, Series A - Shaver
PROGRAMS FOR WORKERS' CONFERENCES, Series B - Shaver
IMPROVING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION THROUGH SUPERVISION - McKibben
PLANNING A CHURCH PROGRAM FOR SENIOR AND YOUNG PEOPLE - Getty
BUILDING A YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY PROGRAM - Getty
STANDARD A FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL
STANDARD B FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL 1/21/42

The first two items in this list are published by the Board of Christian Education.

Cordially yours,

Willis

Willis R. Booth

Church membership 215
Sunday School Membership 175

December 8, 1941

Rev. Mr. Willis R. Booth
Box 3020
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Willis:

I am glad to know that the church at Juneau has received you folks so graciously and that they have been so kind to you in equipping the manse for your living quarters. You are entitled to it. I do rejoice with you in the large class that is uniting with the Church next Sunday. Congratulations!

The article that you wrote about the dedicatory services for the Princeton-Hall was shoved around from pillar to post and finally it came back to me with the comment that it was too long to be printed. So it seems to me that we have lost a good opportunity.

The Rotenberrys sailed from Seattle December 2nd and the Bilys were to have sailed December 3rd. I suppose they have already passed through Juneau by this time.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

Northern Light Presbyterian Church

WILLIS R. BOOTH, MINISTER
P. O. Box 3020

JUNEAU, ALASKA

December 23, 1941.

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

Please accept my deepest appreciation for THE SPIRITUAL DIARY you sent for Christmas. It will prove a blessing throughout the year. As I read through the list of contributors I found the names of many men whom I know personally, with the result that as we use the book in our daily devotions and come to the meditations contributed by these men, it will take on a very personal color. We will be having a chat of personal fellowship with one we know and upon a subject commonly dear to us. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

We have had the joy of visiting with both the Rotenberrys and the Bily's as they passed through Juneau. I am glad they are in Alaska. When I met Arthur Bily I was thrown into quite a bit of embarrassment, for it had never occurred to me that I had ever before met the man. However, while I was doing a bit of travelling with Missouri Valley College Choir a few years ago, Arthur was a member of that choir. I should have remembered his name, but I don't think I ever saw it in print before. You are to be congratulated on your selection of him for Sitka. With his environmental background of Chicago's Neighborhood House he will prove very profitable to us in his sincerity and attitude.

Since the receipt of your request for me to investigate the Auk Lake Chapel situation and give you an opinion, I have not been able to get out there because of the heavy snows and the continuous blackout in that area. The days are very short, and all night services at the chapel have been curtailed until the blackout program can be perfected. It is now against the law to travel the highway after dark. However, I have an engagement to spend the day of December 29 with Mr. Barrows for the purpose of going over the entire situation. What cannot be covered in one day will be immediately followed up. I have been able to get Mr. Barrows' cooperation without his knowledge of the reason, on the ground that my interest in National Missions leads me to the desire of having first hand information about our work.

I hope you will bear with me long enough for me to get all the facts possible before me so that I will not be guilty of snap judgement. I hope to be able to give you an opinion very shortly after the first of January.

Cordially yours,

Willis.

Willis R. Booth.

Northern Light Presbyterian Church

WILLIS R. BOOTH, MINISTER

P. O. Box 3020

JUNEAU, ALASKA

December 23, 1941

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

The work of our Church in Alaska is vastly important and is much upon my heart. During the months I have been in Alaska I have observed several items of importance and have felt a very great need. Therefore I would like to make certain suggestions which I believe would strengthen each of our workers and support us in a unified effort.

Let me make it clear that none of these remarks are in any way a criticism of the present personnel or set-up, but are made purely in the interest of future progress.

We have a committee on National Missions in this Presbytery, but during the time I have been in Alaska, I have felt that the committee has not functioned. At least not beyond a meeting at the time of Presbytery at which approval of repairs to property and certain recommendations were made to the Board. I have felt the need of a central source of information, encouragement and ~~spurring~~ on coming from the committee here as the go-between in behalf of our able Secretary of Alaskan work. The only lift we have had has come from you. That has been fine and I greatly appreciate it, but the Committee in Presbytery could be a tremendous help to you in carrying out and following up your suggestions and desires. At present, it is every man for himself and there is a lack of a unified program. Hence I offer you the following suggestions. In order to make myself clear, let me write what I would suggest if I were chairman of the committee in Presbytery.

1. The Committee chairman, supported by the Committee, because of the long distances and difficult travel might well be the representative of the Secretary locally, and as such be a clearing house for all matters pertaining to the work in Alaska. As chairman, I would want to be informed of all suggestions and desires of the Secretary to our local missions, which could be done through the use of a copy of the letter to the worker being sent to the chairman.

2. The chairman to supervise the work here by continual contact with the men in their fields, which could be done by periodical visitation and letter.

3. The chairman write a monthly letter to each worker in which he would

a. Give information of particular interest to our workers, as gleaned from the field.

b. Follow up the suggestions, requests and desires pertaining to the program as made by the Secretary.

c. Keep before the workers all matters of special emphasis, special days, etc.

d. Coordinate the work to a progressive end.

4. The chairman to keep in close touch with the Secretary and with the worker in an effort to keep the worker at a high level spiritually, through encouragement, friendliness, and the giving of impetus to spiritual development.

5. In order to keep the worker from drying up intellectually, suggest to him helpful material for reading and study. I would like to see his study habits required as to time and material. In this direction it would be a helpful thing if some plan could be worked out whereby our workers could make use of the Board's lending library.

6. The chairman be the personal representative of the Secretary in all our work in Alaska, and directly responsible to the Secretary, keeping him informed by the sending of a copy of all letters to the Secretary.

The above suggestions may sound like a big order, but would be immensely worthwhile, and I believe, if requested, could be put into operation.

I trust you will not think I am sticking out my neck in making them, nor that I am trying to run things for you. My sole intention is the betterment of the work of the Kingdom and a filling in of the gap created by the long distance between New York and Alaska, and the heavy load of the Secretary. In the above suggestions, I can see a bit of helpfulness to you which I have not felt existing before.

I shall be glad to have your reaction.

Cordially yours,

Willis

Willis R. Booth.

Northern Light Presbyterian Church

WILLIS R. BOOTH, MINISTER
P. O. Box 3020

JUNEAU, ALASKA
January 3, 1941

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

Re: The Chapel-by-the-Lake, Auk Lake, Juneau, Alaska

This past week I have been studying the situation in an effort to form a sound basis for judgement. This report, in no way, can be construed as complete. I had the fullest cooperation of our Sunday School Missionary, Mr. W. E. Barrows. The line of approach was three-fold and is not related in sequential order: 1. Visitation among the people, 2. General information regarding the community, and 3. The reports and work of Mr. Barrows.

In the visitation among the people I learned of the very high regard and respect held by all those visited for the Sunday School Missionary. Regardless of original religious affiliations, Mr. Barrows has won his way into the hearts of the people and they have come to depend upon him. He seems to be tireless in his efforts and willingness to lift them spiritually.

The women of the community have an organization known as the "Chapeladies." They meet for helpfulness and general interest in the community and have pledged for the support of the Chapel Sunday School fifty percent of any money they may earn. Their interest is projected through the Sunday School.

The Auk Lake community is rapidly growing and will, no doubt, grow even more rapidly due to the feeling there is safety from war raids in scattered homes in wooded areas rather than a close area as in the city of Juneau.

One general store is already established in the vicinity and another is being attempted. Auk Bay is being developed, the landing wharf improved and lighted. It is conceded the Bay offers a better and more convenient harbor for larger ships than Juneau, and much time could be saved for ships if they could dock there rather than wind their way into Juneau through Gastineau channel. Consequently, the idea is projected that sometime in the future, be it near or far, Juneau will be moved to Auk Bay.

Coupled with this is the movement on foot to transfer the

Capital from Juneau to somewhere in the interior of Alaska, possibly Anchorage. That effort may take many years to accomplish, yet, if it is done, the transfer of Juneau to the Auk Bay area would be facilitated.

The character of the community seems to be in the main, substantial people, not necessarily monied people. Many of them, at present, have little or nothing in material wealth. And most of them are maintaining the area as a year-round residence.

The Chapel is the only church building in the area. The Catholic Retreat is too far distant, on the Eagle River road beyond the Auk Bay area, to make any difference, (about 25 miles from Juneau). At present, the Seventh Day Adventist have quite a following who live immediately at the Bay. They hold weekly services in a home, but have no resident missionary. Also, the Lutheran adherents are many in number, perhaps out numbering any other.

As I understand it, the Chapel-by-the-Lake property is leased from the Government for Church purposes, being in the Tongass National Forest area. This means that if at any time we fail to make use of the property, it would revert to the Government, and then could be leased to any other religious sect. The watch dogs of religious competition are alert and waiting for their opportunity for attack.

I learned the people have not here to fore been pleased with the Chapel. Their grievance is expressed as being tricked into a Presbyterian Church. They openly remark about their dislike for the Reverend Mr. Glasse, whom they say promised in return for their cooperation a community church, but then has given them only a Presbyterian Church. Mr. Barrows is doing a fine job in pacifying them by telling them the Chapel is a community Church under the sponsorship of the Presbyterian Church.

In quizzing Mr. Barrows, I was quite startled over certain findings, and quite pleased over others. Mr. Barrows is very sincere and energetic. The children as well as the adults love him.

For comparative purposes, I asked if he would permit me to see a copy of his reports to the Board, running back over several months. He did. I was startled to learn that no report is made and no figures are available on the attendance at the services in the chapel. He explained to me the attendance varies greatly. December 28, at the evening service, there were two present. Evening services have been resumed for the present and the building has been prepared for "blackouts."

I asked how many conversions had occurred during the past year. He told me, "None, for that is not my business; I am not capable; I am not a minister but a layman." My reply was, "No, you may not be capable, but GOD IS capable and could use you to that end."

I asked if a survey of the community has been made, which would show the religious connections, number of people, adults and children, etc. None has been made.

At this stage of my study I am impressed with the importance of the Chapel-by-the-Lake. It must be maintained! The area served should not be thought of in any smaller radius than five miles. The cultivation needed in the rapidly growing population within the radius is much more than is possible by a man on divided time. There is no organization at the Chapel at present. There would be an advantage in having one, though it may not take on the complexion of an organized Church member of Presbytery just yet; eventually, it would. Souls should be converted to Jesus Christ. I have offered Mr. Barrows my fullest cooperation in baptizing and receiving any person converted. Of course, it would have to be done in my Church. It would be profitable for church functions to be instituted under the cooperation and direction of the Juneau pastor. I am willing to enter such an arrangement if desired.

I am of the present opinion, if possible, we should continue a resident worker on the field, and that his supervision be in cooperation with the Church here, and of course this does not in any way reduce either supervision or responsibility to the Unit of Sunday School Missionaries.

It would be profitable for a graphic census to be taken of the area served by the Chapel, which would lead to a more intelligent, intensified, and organized work.

With the feeling existing among the residents of the area who were there when the Chapel was started, it would be to an advantage for Mr. Barrows to continue his fine work in changing the attitude of undercurrent antagonism to that of cooperation. For a Presbyterian minister to enter the field as the sole worker at this time might not be to the best advantage.

I have an engagement with Mr. Barrows to conduct a communion service at the Chapel on January 11, which I am informed will be the first communion service ever to be served in the Chapel. I am taking the service from here and some of my elders. Of course, as he is ordained, I plan to use Mr. Barrows in the service for the psychological effect upon the community.

I also have an engagement with him for further visitation in the community.

Cordially yours,
Willis R. Booth
Willis R. Booth.

January 14, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. Willis R. Booth
Box 3020
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Friend Willis:

Returning from a field trip I found several letters from you and I am going to try to answer all of them in this one. If I overlook any points you will be good enough to write me and call my attention to it.

First of all, in regard to the suggestions that you have made about the Committee on National Missions in the Presbytery. I think all of your suggestions are fine. You are thinking along the same line that I have been thinking all the while but with the present set-up I do not think the suggestions could be carried through. That makes the reason more clear why I wanted someone like you to head up the National Missions work. Intime I think it will come and I know when it does it will be a real help.

Thanks for your very fine appraisal of the work at Auk Lake. You have given me the information that I wanted and information that is most helpful in formulating the plans for the future. At least for the timebeing I shall plan to continue with our present set-up.

Now another request coming from me to you. I am quite anxious about the best policy to follow relative to the missionaries and their families in Alaska during these days. I wish, therefore, that you would talk to some of your close friends there in Juneau and try to ascertain what would be the safest and best policy to pursue. I want to know whether or not to tell the missionaries to send their families to the States or whether some of the missionaries, particularly Miss Bannan, Miss Stauffer and the Klerekopers, should evacuate for the present time.

If you will get this information for me I shall greatly appreciate it.

I rejoice in the fine reports that are coming about your work in Juneau. Please tell me just how you feel about this new work. Are you both happy?

Cordially yours,

January 19, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. Willis R. Booth
Box 3020
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Willis:

I am sending out a bulletin to all the missionaries in Alaska asking them to designate you as contact person in Alaska Presbytery and Rolland Armstrong in Yukon Presbytery. My thought behind this plan is that during these days of emergency when communications with the field should be direct our New York office ought to have the privilege of naming the persons who are in the best possible position to receive communications and pass them on without much loss of time. In the bulletin, I am asking that these contact assume the responsibility of the National Missions Committee during the period of war. This, of course, will mean that all communications from New York to the field will go through you and from the field to us will come through you. I believe this will be helpful and I know you are in a position to render a real service.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

Dictated by Dr. King but
signed in his absence

Northern Light Presbyterian Church

WILLIS R. BOOTH, MINISTER
P. O. BOX 3020

JUNEAU, ALASKA

January 20, 1942.

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

reached

I very greatly appreciate your letter of January 14. Isabel and I are very pleased with the progress we have been able to make since coming to Juneau. The work is hard and challenging, for Juneau is not Church minded, in spite of the large number of denominations represented by organizations. But I would not have it otherwise than challenging. My people are very fine, and we are enjoying them immensely. Last Sunday, we organized our high school boys and girls into an organization which will meet each Sunday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock. There are seventeen charter members, and there is good promise for a splendid growth. It remains true, we feel we are **forfeiting** the closer contact of being a member of the missionary family for the privilege of rendering a greater service to the Board of National Missions. However, it is a mistake to think of Northern Light Church as being other than a mission church in spite of the effort at being self-supporting.

My installation as pastor of this church was put off until after the spring meeting of Presbytery. We had planned to have the service as the members of Presbytery should return through Juneau on their way home. Since the Navy at Sitka took over both the Princeton-Hall and the SJS motorboats, I wonder if there will be a spring meeting. Public transportation would be quite costly, and there would be no assurance that the members could even get passage to and from Wrangell. I have heard no solution to the problem within the bounds of Presbytery.

With the turn of events, I wonder what are your plans for Paul Prouty. It may be presumptuous for me to ask. I will be interested in knowing if he will remain in Alaska for work.

The New York Times is quoted in Sitka as saying the U. S. Army plans to take over Sheldon Jackson School to be used as army barracks. Is it true?

Cordially yours,

Willis

Northern Light Presbyterian Church

WILLIS R. BOOTH, MINISTER

P. O. Box 3020

JUNEAU, ALASKA

January 20, 1942.

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

Re: Possible evacuation of Missionary families from Alaska.

Upon receipt of your letter of January 14, I talked over the situation with the following men who represent different interests here in Alaska.

Mr. Herbert L. Faulkner, Attorney, Chairman of Red Cross Drive, and an elder in my Church.

Mr. M. S. Whittier, U. S. Customs office, and an elder in the Church.

Mr. Claude M. Hirst, Director of Indian Affairs for Alaska.

Hon. Ernest Gruening, Governor of Alaska.

These men were all of the same opinion, and I give you here a summary of their opinion, in which I fully share.

1. There has already occurred an evacuation of women and children from Alaska, and it is not completed as yet. These have been members of military families - Army, Navy, and Marine; and the families of construction workers for whom the Navy was responsible in bringing to Alaska. This evacuation is routine, and in no way should influence civilian families. Nevertheless, it has caused a flurry of unrest, which is quieting as that evacuation nears completion.

2. The Office of Indian Affairs has school teachers scattered all over Alaska, including St. Lawrence Island. This office has received inquiries from a number of the teachers, and has replied to them to remain at their posts. There does not appear to be any apparent danger as yet. In the event it would seem wise for either the teacher or his family to evacuate, the office will notify them.

3. The greater danger in some localities is shortage of supplies rather than attack. This might be the case at St. Lawrence Island, Cape Prince of Wales, and Point Barrow. However, the motorboat, "Boxer", belonging to the Department of Indian Affairs has been assigned to regular runs to Nome and other places in that vicinity for supply purposes. It appears these places have an ample supply of food for this winter. No one is able to say what will happen in the future.

4. The Navy has taken over most of the boats of the Northland Transportation Company, The Alaska Steamship Company, and The Alaska Transportation Company. This means there is now a minimum number of boats bringing freight to Alaska. Recently, the Maritime Commission allowed a forty-five percent increase in rate on both freight and passengers. This means a great increase in the cost of living. I call your attention to the comparative percent figures cited by Governor Gruening in the attached clipping. The Maritime Commission is scheduled to hold a hearing on the subject on January 23rd at Washington, D. C. Governor Gruening plans to fly to the hearing. There is little hope this can be corrected by reduction of rates. The only hope is in increased wages. The attached clipping is a true indication of the Federal employees in Juneau making effort toward an adjustment in wages which will enable them to live on the increased rate of expenses.

5. All my counselors expressed the sense of this paragraph. The missionary is here for the purpose of serving the Kingdom of God with these people. They came to Alaska at a time when the emphasis was upon the spiritual need in a time of peace, and to teach the principles of Christianity. Now is a time of crisis! The missionary is needed more than ever, for it is a time for demonstration. These people need encouragement; they need courage, strength, and a quiet mind. I am sure the missionary will not be the first to run away because he faces danger and hardship. But if he does, then it is a testimony to the futility of Christianity. Most of the population of Alaska is permanent. The Indian couldn't go elsewhere if he wanted to. They must not be forsaken! None of us want to die from the human viewpoint. But if "to live is Christ" then surely "to die is gain" if die we must in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ to these people.

6. Some of our missionary families, no doubt, will develop the "jitters." If they want to leave their posts, or send their families to the States, they should be permitted, and even possibly aided to that effect. They should not be made to stay. Even a Christian, if he has a bad case of the "jitters," is of little value to morale.

7. As for Miss Bannan, Miss Martin, Miss Stauffer, and the Klerekopers, their situation is a little different. In the event of shortage of supplies, the Indians could subsist on their own, finding their food as they did years ago, but it would be difficult for these women to live upon that type of food even if they could hunt or fish for it.

8. Mr. Claude M. Hirst has agreed with me to notify me the very minute the Government feels it necessary or advisable to evacuate school teachers and government workers from localities in Alaska, and particularly from the western part and the interior. I will, upon receipt of such notice, notify you.

But telegraph promises to be very slow to the States, and still more time would be lost in any notification going from New York to Western Alaska. Some system should be devised to get them word as quickly as possible. I will be glad to serve in any way possible to facilitate the communication. You may find it an advantage to notify the missionaries in the west from Juneau immediately upon receipt of such information in Juneau, than for the delay of time involved in first telegraphing New York and then a return telegram to the missionaries. If such a system is set up, the missionaries should be informed so as to give authority to any message they may receive from Juneau.

9. Only straight day telegrams at the single word rate are being accepted in Alaska. No night letters nor day letters are accepted, and there is no guarantee on the delivery.

10. No one is able to say what is in store for us. The direction of events will have to be watched very closely. We do not want a surprise attack, nor for our missionaries to be ruthlessly murdered as were the Reverend and Mrs. Thomas, and Miss Burkwall by the Japs. Yet, we in Alaska, do not feel the necessity of evacuating yet. Isabel and I and Mrs. Cassell will remain in Juneau until forced to leave.

11. I sincerely hope this opinion will aid you in forming the policy apparently best to be pursued. We pray evacuation may not be necessary for any of us.

12. All the attached clippings are from the Daily Alaska Empire newspaper of Juneau.

13. Why not place to decision to evacuate the missionary families in the hands of the missionaries? I believe they will act prayerfully.

Meanwhile, will you please send me by return mail a complete up-to-date list of the names and addresses of our missionaries in Yukon and Alaska Presbyteries. Also a copy of the YEAR BOOK OF PRAYER for 1942.

May God give you of His infinite wisdom in knowing His will for us at such a time as this.

Cordially yours,

Willis.

January 24, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Dr. Willis R. Booth
Box 3020
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Friend Willis:

Thank you for your interesting as well as vivid description of the conditions in Alaska and the fine counsel and advice that you gave relative to the missionaries. We do not want to be asleep on the job and at the same time we do not want to have our missionaries run away from some apparent danger and leave the people helpless and hopeless. We are trying to formulate something that will be to and for the best interest of all. I do appreciate the effort that you made in supplying me with so much good and valuable information.

In setting up contact men for the two Presbyteries I had in mind direct communication. For instance in your case, I expect you to be the official voice in Alaska Presbytery for the Board of National Missions. In case of some immediate emergency I shall expect you to counsel with me if the time permits. If not, then you will have to use your best judgment and notify me of the action. The Board of National Missions has given the authority to each man on the field in danger zones to determine the advisability of evacuation or the continuance of the work. The Board has, therefore, taken exactly the action that you thought would be wise.

In your official capacity as contact man for Alaska Presbytery I shall, of course, expect to take care of any expense that might be involved; such as, telegrams, travel or so forth.

Personally, I do not see how with the existing conditions there can be a meeting of Presbytery this spring. If you get any more light on the job let me know.

Kindest regards to your family.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

Northern Light Presbyterian Church

WILLIS R. BOOTH, MINISTER
P. O. Box 3020

JUNEAU, ALASKA
February 1, 1942

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

I have your letters of January 19 and 24, together with the bulletin you sent under date of January 21. Please accept my gratitude for the faith and confidence you have placed in me in naming me "contact person" for the Presbytery of Alaska. The order is a big one, and I will do my best to carry it out effectively.

With your permission, I am gathering around me several outstanding men, interested in the work and the welfare of our missionaries, that these men should be to me in an advisory capacity. I plan to use the following men:

Mr. M. S. Whittier, U. S. Customs officer
Mr. Herbert L. Faulkner, Attorney
Mr. R. E. Robertson, Attorney
Mr. Claude M. Hirst, Director of Indian Affairs, Federal.

These will counsel with me on all important matters on which I must render a decision. Three of them you will recognize as elders in this Church, and Mr. Hirst is a member here.

May I call your attention to your letter of January 19 in which you said, "All communications from New York to the field will go through you and from the field to us will come through you." I wonder if it is clear from item "3" under "Contact Churches in Alaska" in your bulletin of January 21, that communications from the field meant for New York must pass through me in order that I might have full information?

As I understand your emergency war organization, wherein the contact man assumes the responsibility of the National Missions Committee, I wonder if you intend the missionary's monthly reports should also pass through my hands? I do not ask for it, nor do I suggest it, but I do recognize Juneau to be by far more accessible by mail than Hoonah.

I trust we will have the wholehearted cooperation of every man in the Presbytery.

No plan has as yet been devised for holding a meeting of Presbytery this spring, now that the Princeton-Hall is gone. However, at the suggestion of Mr. Leslie Yaw, I am in the process of investigating the possibility of leasing a small boat for the use of Paul Prouty, and possibly transporting the men to Presbytery. Of course it would have to be one smaller than the Navy would be likely to take over. The Customs Office has given me the names of six possible boats, which range from 35 to 43 feet in length. This may be unwise, yet, I will have the information and availability at hand in case something might be worked out. I will let you know what I find.

You will rejoice with me that last Sunday I received five additional members into the Church - three by profession of faith, a total of twenty since November 15.

Cordially yours,

Willeis

February 9, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. Willis R. Booth
Box 3020
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Booth:

Your letter of February 1st has been received during Dr. King's absence on a field trip. We shall see that it is brought to his attention immediately upon his return the end of this month.

Cordially yours,

UNIT OF WORK IN ALASKA

By:

McE

Northern Light Presbyterian Church

WILLIS R. BOOTH, MINISTER
P. O. Box 3020

JUNEAU, ALASKA

February 10, 1942

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

Re: The possibility of chartering a small boat for use in
Alaska Presbytery.

A few weeks ago, Leslie Yaw suggested to me that I investigate the possibility of chartering a small boat in the Juneau area to do the work of the Princeton-Hall. I immediately began a search, and found several possibilities. They were from 35 to 43 feet in length, and ranged in charter fee from \$200 to \$450 per month, plus the insurance while the boat is in our possession.

The most likely one found is the DONJAC, owned by Mr. Jack Burford. Her description is as follows: 37' length, 12' beam, 5.6' depth, powered by a 103 horsepower Chrysler gas engine, and at 1900 RPM will consume about 4 gallons of gas. She has a capacity of 13 tons net; carries 80 gallons of fresh water and 300 gallons of gasoline. I am enclosing two snapshot pictures of her. The DONJAC can be chartered on a twelve months basis for \$200. per month, and we would have to either carry \$8000.00 insurance against loss, or furnish some guarantee to protect the owner, also, the owner would expect the boat to be returned in the same good condition as when we take her over. She is available immediately.

A few days after I sent Leslie Yaw this information, Paul Prouty came to Juneau. We called in Walter Soboleff and Mr. Willard Barrows, and the four of us visited the several available boats,--- then went into a huddle to think through the whole proposition.

We were very conscious of the following facts:

1. In order to hold our own in the work already begun by the Presbyterian Church in Alaska, it would be necessary for a regular visitation to the fields.

2. Last April, at the Haines meeting of Presbytery, it was decided to send Walter Soboleff to our Indian villages to hold spiritual life meetings. This is badly needed and should be carried out.

3. Paul Prouty, assisted possibly by some of the Sheldon Jackson faculty, should conduct a number of vacation Church Schools throughout the Presbytery this summer. I understand some of the faculty have expressed their desire to spend their vacation this way.
4. The enlarged program would make full use of our Sunday School Missionary, Paul Prouty.
5. The Young People's Summer Conference is important, and if possible, should be conducted this coming summer.
6. The omission of Presbytery meeting this spring would certainly work against us rather than aid in coordinating the work. If possible, Presbytery should meet, and that will not be possible if we have to depend upon commercial carriers.
7. The student transportation to and from Sheldon Jackson School is pertinent to the life of the school, and is dependent upon some type of boat other than commercial carrier.

With these major facts in mind, we became convinced of the great desirability of chartering a small boat as we no longer have either the Princeton-Hall or the "SJS."

We then considered the cost. To me, the price seemed great. Yet, the National Mission budget called for maintenance of the Princeton-Hall, insurance, and a helper's salary. We were also aware of the fact that soon, Leslie Yaw would be sending you a cheque from the United States Navy for the Princeton-Hall, which we felt would surely be deposited against the day when a new boat could be procured. Meanwhile, there would be interest on the deposit. Maybe that interest could be used toward chartering a boat now.

We reached the conclusions which we agreed to make bold to suggest to you for consideration, and if possible, would rejoice us to see affected:

1. That a small boat, such as the DONJAC be chartered for twelve months.
2. That no boat of lesser capacity be considered.
3. That in case no boat is chartered, the Sunday School Missionary travel the best he can by common carrier.

With these conclusions, Paul Prouty went to Hoonah to confer with Rev. E. E. Bromley. Sunday, he returned to Juneau accompanied by Mr. Bromley. For two days, Prouty, Bromley, Soboleff, Barrows and I have reviewed every angle of the possibility. Mr. Bromley has written you, but I felt you were due a word from me, and so I have written at length in an effort to give you the total picture. It seems to me, if

February 10, 1942

the finance can be found, the cost is fully justified by the need. It is our prayer, that in the providence of God, His Kingdom shall go forward in this day when there is so much war, and human souls are reaching out to God as possibly never before.

I will be pleased to receive your reaction apart from your reply as requested in Mr. Bromley's letter. In the event a way can be found to charter this boat, I can get one of the lawyers in Juneau to help me draw up a contract.

Cordially yours,

Willis

Willis R. Booth.

Northern Light Presbyterian Church

WILLIS R. BOOTH, MINISTER

P. O. Box 3020

JUNEAU, ALASKA

February 10, 1942

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

I learned today, our friends Rev. E. E. Bromley and Rev. Alfred Swogger are, through jealousy, quite wrought up over the action of the Board of National Missions in appointing me as contact man for the Board in this Presbytery. Frankly, I expected this. Mr. Bromley assured me he has nothing against me, but does not think the Board has a right to appoint such a man, and to ask that the man assume the responsibilities of the Committee on National Missions.

It was ⁱⁿ my anticipation of this that I requested you to clarify the statements contained in your bulletin.

It would be better for all concerned if your clearing statement could be sent directly to Mr. Bromley and to the members of Presbytery.

Cordially yours,

Willis

Northern Light Presbyterian Church

WILLIS R. BOOTH, MINISTER

P. O. Box 3020

JUNEAU, ALASKA

February 24, 1942

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

I have just learned that Rev. E. E. Bromley, while in Juneau, purchased a new oil range for the manse of the Memorial Presbyterian Church, and paid for it with his personal cheque, expecting the Board of National Missions to reimburse him. Therefore I hasten to write you lest the circumstance should give cause to thinking I was a party to the deal.

On the last day of Mr. Bromley's visit in Juneau, he asked me if I would approve a recommendation to the Board for the purchase of a new range for Walter Soboleff's manse. I told him I would if there is a real necessity for a new range. He then asked me to go with him and Walter to see what could be had. I did.

After we had looked at every store handling them, I went to my other duties, understanding, of course, that Mr. Bromley would send you a recommendation. It appears that he and Walter then returned to one of the stores and made the purchase. Frankly, I do not feel very good over it.

I feel that Mr. Bromley should have carried out the original idea, and learned if the Board's budget, at this time of the year, could afford the expenditure. The approval of the Board should have come before the purchase. Presumption is not a prerogative of a National Missions Chairman as I understand it. I do not question the need for a range to replace a worn-out one, but it takes money to satisfy the need.

I do hope this serious blunder of presumption does not upset the budget when I am sure the need is greatest and money is hard to get.

Cordially yours,

Willis.

February 21, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. Willis R. Booth
Box 3020
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Willis:

Thank you for your good letter of February 10th with the detailed description of the DONJAC boat. I wish that it were possible for me to say that the Board would approve of the plan and that the money would be forthcoming but I know that it is not possible. I have already talked to one or two members of the Executive Committee and they say very definitely that the cost is prohibitive. I appreciate your interest and the informative letter. I only wish that something could be done.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

Northern Light Presbyterian Church

WILLIS R. BOOTH, MINISTER
P. O. Box 3020

JUNEAU, ALASKA
February 28, 1942

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

Presbytery of Alaska is supposed to meet on April 8 to 12.

We have had no reaction from you as to the possibility of chartering the DONJAC motorboat.

Assuming this may be found possible from the New York viewpoint, the DONJAC is not large enough to gather the entire Presbytery on one run. Therefore, in order to prevent the members of one end of Presbytery from just sitting at Wrangell and waiting for the others to arrive, which would take several days, it would be necessary to charter a second boat for the special trip to Wrangell.

This is possible. Mr. A. M. Coon, owner of the PHOTOGRAPHIC motorboat was in to see me, and quoted me a price of \$40.00 per day as charter fee which included only boat and skipper. In addition, we would have to pay for the fuel and lubricating oil used, and the food supply and cook. You see this would run at least \$450.00 for the trip.

There are two other possibilities which are being investigated. George Betts of Petersburg, has a boat which is undergoing repairs, and which may be ready by that time.

Sam Johnson is now in Seattle to get a boat which he has purchased, and expects to be in Alaska by April 1.

At any rate, the members of Presbytery cannot afford to charter a boat by themselves. Can or will the Board of National Missions make possible a meeting of Presbytery by helping out on the expenses? If so, how much can the Board defray?

I will appreciate it if you will let me have this information by telegram that arrangements may be made here for chartering a boat.

I will be happy to receive your reaction to the DONJAC.

Cordially yours,

Willis

Northern Light Presbyterian Church

WILLIS R. BOOTH, MINISTER
P. O. Box 3020

JUNEAU, ALASKA

March 4, 1942

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

Thank you for your letter of February 21 concerning the possibility of chartering the DONJAC motorboat for use in the Presbytery. Your letter was received after I wrote you relative to the possibility of chartering boats for the special trip to the meeting of Presbytery.

I fully agree with you that the cost of chartering the DONJAC "is prohibitive." The same thing is true when we must charter two boats, which would cost us in the neighborhood of seven to eight hundred dollars. A meeting of Presbytery is not worth that much money. I just can't see it.

I am now of the opinion that there is no way in which we can have a meeting of Presbytery. Money which might be spent in this way should be conserved for paying of salaries, and there is no question but that the Benevolence giving of the Church will be cut due to the war conditions.

However, the Presbytery of Alaska should recognize the war emergency condition, and should consider itself in that state. I think, as all the churches in Alaska Presbytery are National Missions Aid Receiving, except one, the Board of National Missions should assume the administrative functions of the Presbytery. Virtually, this was done in your bulletin of January 21, but perhaps due to the lack of knowledge of the law, it has not penetrated the thinking of the members of Presbytery. The ecclesiastical functions remain with the Presbytery, but there are no matters of great stress along this line. This is one reason why I asked you for a clarifying statement to the members of Presbytery. See my letter of February 1.

The justifying basis for the Board of National Missions assuming the administrative functions of the Presbytery are found in the DIGEST, 1938, pages 558 and following, which state "the functions, powers and prerogatives of the Board of Home Missions are..... to superintend the whole work of Home Missions in behalf of said Church, as the General Assembly may from time to time direct."

On page 559 it states, "Within the bounds of a Presbytery the work of the Board of Home Missions should be carried on in harmony with the Presbytery, according to the principles and rules hereinafter stated; but a discretion should be allowed to the Board in outlying districts, where direct Presbyterial control is difficult or impracticable." It certainly seems to me the present war condition makes the work within the bounds of Alaska Presbytery both "difficult or impracticable."

Then I am quite conscious of the section 2. Administrative Functions, found on page 562.

All these statements give the Board the authority to act.

I do not know if these provisions were in your mind when you issued the January 21 bulletin, but they would justify further action.

You will be interested to know that since the receipt of the January 21 bulletin, I have received no communication of any type from any member of Presbytery, except in direct relation to the question, "will there be a meeting of Presbytery?"

One question further is in my mind. Would it be necessary for the General Assembly in meeting this May to take note of the "war emergency state" of Presbytery and the Board of National Missions assuming the administrative functions of Presbytery? At least it might lend further authority to the act in the minds of the members of Presbytery. I do not see it should be necessary since every member of Presbytery, except one, is on the pay roll of the Board.

There are certain problems involved. Under the war emergency set-up, how should the commissioner to the meeting of General Assembly be designated? Not by election for there will be no meeting. If by appointment, who will appoint? We have no official moderator since Paul Whiteside left the Presbytery. Mr. Bromley was the last moderator, and he presided at the September 1941 meeting.

Looking forward to receiving your reaction to the above line of reasoning, I am

Cordially yours,

Willis

Willis R. Booth.

March 13, 1942

A I R M A I L

Rev. Mr. Willis R. Booth
P. O. Box 3020
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Willis:

I have your letter of March 4 and am wondering whether or not there is still a difficulty in the minds of the brethren relative to your being appointed as contact officer. Would it still be wise for me to write further explanation to Bromley and to Swogger? If you think so, please let me know, and I shall be glad to do so.

With no meeting of Spring Presbytery for the purpose of electing commissioners to the General Assembly, it would seem to me that it would be within your province as the contact man to recommend duly appointed commissioners. If you make those recommendations to me, then perhaps I would have authority to make it official; that is only a guess, and you may have information there that will make it clear.

I like the way you have set up the committee to help you in deciding issues. You have made a very choice selection, and certainly out of the five heads that are together really safe information should be secured.

Cordially yours,

EBK:HH

Northern Light Presbyterian Church

WILLIS R. BOOTH, MINISTER

P. O. Box 3020

JUNEAU, ALASKA

March 20, 1942

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

Thank you for your letter of March 13. I feel it would be wise for you to write Mr. Swogger and Mr. Bromley, at least, concerning the interpretation of your bulletin of January 21. Thus far, I have received no National Missions communications from the field. The National Missions Committee continues to function through Mr. Bromley just as it did prior to January 21. Perhaps this is what you intended?

I would like for you to be specific in your reply to me. Am I correct in my interpretation of your bulletin statement, "That during the duration of the war these contact persons serve in the capacity of the National Missions Committee....." that this means what it says? If so, then should I not be receiving the monthly reports and communications to the Board from the field? This is not being done as yet. If this is what you intended, then the men in the field need a further word from you.

I have a letter from Mr. Bromley under date of March 14, which reads, "No doubt you have had word from Dr. King suggesting that we postpone the meeting of Presbytery and Presbyterial, and have them at the same time and place as the Young People's Conference."

Pursuant to this idea, he has asked me to find out if we may have the use of Wrangell Institute for the Young People's Conference. I have secured this possibility from Mr. Virgil Farrell, Director of Schools for the Indian Affairs. Mr. Farrell has received the consent from Superintendent George T. Barrett of Wrangell Institute.

But I have receive no word from you as to the possibility of the Board of National Missions being able to provide a part of the expenses for a meeting of Presbytery this year. I have quoted you, both to Mr. Swogger and Mr. Bromley, as saying, "Personally, I do not see how with the existing conditions there can be a meeting of Presbytery this spring." That should answer the question. However, Bromley seems to have information I do not have.

To have a simultaneous meeting of Presbytery, Presbyterial, and the Young People's Conference, would involve chartering at least three

boats, and possibly four. Even though, we should be able to use George Betts' and Sam Johnson's boats, this would run into quite an expense. Wrangell Institute has a boat which may possibly be used to gather some of the members of the conference. Permission for this is granted by Mr. Farrell if it can be arranged with Mr. Barrett. Is the expense justifiable? The members of Presbytery cannot afford a large transportation fee. I doubt the Board can. I would like for you to settle this question once and for all in your reply. Mr. Bromley seems to be determined to have a meeting of Presbytery in June. Personally, I doubt the wisdom of spending the money on a meeting.

I have recommended to Mr. Swogger that the minister commissioner to the General Assembly be named in rotation, which would be Edwin Knudsen of Haines. I have also recommended the lay-commissioner be named by rotation of the churches. Last year, Skagway was represented. So that the next church in rotation would be Wrangell.

I rejoice with you in the information which comes from Mr. Armstrong of Fairbanks, that the Fairbanks Church is now self-supporting. That will be a great help.

Juneau now has an army post with 500 men. This is the unit of engineers who have come in to build the post for the fighting army. Their camp is located near the air port. Mr. Barrows made mention of it in his last report.

Cordially yours,

Wells

March 19, 1942.

Rev. E. E. Bromley
Moonah, Alaska

My dear Mr. Bromley:

Thank you for your letter of March 14. I have had no word from Dr. King suggesting we hold the meeting of Presbytery, Presbyterial, and the young people's conference simultaneously. However, that may be a solution. It would involve quite an expense in charter fees, which I wonder if it would be justified.

The Board of National Missions will undoubtedly be hard hit for money during the next twelve months, and for the duration of the war. It will be difficult for the Board to keep up the mission salaries. We should avoid all unnecessary expenses, even to the extent of sacrifice, if that is necessary.

To transport the members of Presbytery, Presbyterial, and young people's conference members and faculty, would require at least three boats and maybe four. The expense of this would be very great, even with the possibility of using the boats of George Betts and Sam Johnson.

However, I would like to see the meetings held, if it can be worked out without a great deal of expense to either the Board of National Missions or to the members of Presbytery. In order to give Dr. King a clear picture of the possibility, I have cleared the way for the possible use of Wrangell Institute for the conference.

Mr. Virgil Farrell, Director of Schools for the Department of Indian Affairs, at Juneau, has consented to the use of the Institute, and has cleared the question with Mr. George T. Barrett, Superintendent of the Institute. The details of arrangements should be made by Mr. Champlin with Mr. Barrett. We may have the use of the Institute facilities without cost. We will have to provide our own feed, but may arrange for the services of the Institution's cook.

Wrangell Institute has a boat which may be making a trip in the interest of their own students about that time. Mr. Champlin may possibly arrange with Mr. Barrett for the boat to pick up our conference members on the return trip. This is agreeable with Mr. Farrell.

I feel it would be tragic for the Presbytery and Presbyterial to interfere with the workings of the conference by visitation upon their activities. This can be avoided by the fact that Wrangell Institute is at least three miles from town.

The minister's wives should be in the meeting of Presbyterial, and certainly, the ministers should be in the meeting of Presbytery. Therefore, the faculty of the conference should be made up entirely of those who may be willing to absent themselves from the other two meetings. A possible solution to this may be in the use of willing members of the Sheldon Jackson School faculty. Miss Ruth Niles would be very fine for the recreational activities of the conference, if she could be secured.

To be Dean of the young people's Conference and pastor host to the Presbytery and Presbyterial simultaneously is quite an undertaking for one man. I will be glad to learn Mr. Champlin's reaction.

Wrangell Institute will close this session about May 20.

Cordially yours,

Willis R. Booth.

March 26, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. Willis R. Booth
Box 3020
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Willis:

This week I received a letter from Swogger in which he stated that it would be possible to charter two boats for the meeting of Spring Presbytery and that the cost involved would not exceed \$200. With that information I immediately answered, saying that if that was the case, I would be glad to recommend that the Board grant that amount of money for the Spring meeting. The figure that he presented this last time was so different from the other figures that have come to me that I felt justified in changing my decision. So far as I know that is the only information that has gone to Alaska that is different from the information I sent to you in the beginning.

If Swogger is able to go through with this proposed plan then I am perfectly willing to endorse the Spring meeting.

I did not have in mind that you would take care of all the reports coming through the National Missions Committee from Southeast Alaska. I think that would be better but there is too much involved to try to cause that to be done. I did have in mind that all emergency communications from the field as well as from this office would go through you. I suppose I did not make myself clear in stating that you would serve in the capacity of the National Missions Committee. Perhaps it would be providential to have the Spring meeting in order that this emergency contact man's responsibility might be cleared and a definite understanding reached so that we would know where we are and what we are doing. I have not written Swogger and Bromley any more regarding the interpretation of my bulletin of January 21st. I think it would be wise to wait now and see what happens about the meeting of Presbytery. If the Presbytery meets then by all means, we shall want the matter cleared. I shall write you in detail what I think this contact man should do. Then you in turn can fight it out with the Presbytery.

Cordiall regards to your wife and your mother-in-law.

W. R. Booth Cordially yours,

Northern Light Presbyterian Church

WILLIS R. BOOTH, MINISTER
P. O. Box 3020

JUNEAU, ALASKA

April 10, 1942

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

I have just received a radiogram from Rev. Alfred D. Swogger, which reads as follows:

"Yaw Champlin Bromley concur Presbytery Presbyterial
Wrangell April twenty ninth."

This, I construe, is the call of the meeting of Presbytery.

I sincerely hope this meeting will clear a great many items in the minds of the brethren.

Time is short until the meeting, but if you have anything you desire me to present, I shall be happy to do so. I will probably leave here on April 26 Or 27.

Thank you for sending me your further construction on the bulletin of January 21. At least it clears things in my mind.

I have just completed the Every Member Canvass, with \$5000. subscribed on a \$6000. budget. Mr. Claude M. Hirst was my Canvass director.

At the Congregational Meeting, March 30, Mr. Hirst and Mr. Raymond L. Wolfe were elected to the office of Elder. Mr. Hirst will be ordained on April 19.

I closed the year here with an addition since November 15, of 28 new members, 17 of whom were by profession of faith.

Cordially yours,

Willis

April 25, 1942

Rev. Mr. Willis R. Booth,
P. O. Box 3020,
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Willis:

After so long a time I finally agreed that it might be the best plan to proceed with arrangements for the Spring meeting of the Presbytery. Consequently I wrote to Swogger stating I would advance him \$200.00 for travel transportation. Things are so uncertain and conditions so unsettled that it probably is a wise plan to try to carry through with the Spring meeting. No one could prophesy what will happen in the fall.

At this meeting of Presbytery you will have an opportunity to make clear your position as the contact man.

Congratulations on your Every Member Canvass. Certainly, the over-subscribing of the budget reflects your fine leadership and this reflection makes my heart glad because it is proof of the fact that the move to Juneau was no mistake.

I was also interested in reading of the number of new members that you had received, particularly those on the profession of faith. I do believe that you are in the position, and in the place, to render a great service.

Cordially yours,

EBK:M

Northern Light Presbyterian Church

WILLIS R. BOOTH, MINISTER

P. O. Box 3020

JUNEAU, ALASKA

April 20, 1942

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

Today, the Juneau Ministerial Association, and wives, took a day's cruise on the Messenger, the boat owned by the Seventh Day Adventists.

During the day's conversation, Pastor Harold L. Woods, Superintendent of the Seventh Day Adventist Missions in Alaska, revealed to me that he is leaving Juneau with the Messenger, on April 30, for Seattle, and would return about June 15 bringing with him two missionary families. When I asked directly where they would be stationed, he replied one of them will be stationed at Craig.

I asked if they have a Church there, and he said, "No, that is a new field we are opening."

Does this religious body belong to the Comity Council?

I thought you would want this information in connection with our work at Craig.

Cordially yours,

Willis R. Booth

Willis R. Booth.

Copy to Mr. Bromley.

April 27, 1942

Rev. Mr. Willis R. Booth,
P. O. Box 3020,
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Friend Willis:

I am very sorry to hear about the plans for the Seventh Day Adventists to place a missionary at Craig. I do not know of any possible way to prevent their plans from being perfected. This group is not in the Council.

I recently received a letter from Craig from someone asking about renting our church building. I suppose this request came from one of the members of this organization. It is too bad, but I do not know what we can do.

Cordially yours,

EEK:M

Northern Light Presbyterian Church

WILLIS R. BOOTH, MINISTER

P. O. Box 3020

JUNEAU, ALASKA

May 15, 1942

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D.
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Everett:

I am sorry that I have had to wait so long after returning from the meeting of Presbytery to write you. As you probably know by now, the meeting was held April 29-May 3.

In some respects, it was a profitable meeting, but unnecessary. Walter Soboleff was elected Moderator, which at least, gives the Presbytery a moderator for the duration of the war.

When it came to the National Missions Committee, it proved to be quite amusing. Last year, at Haines, The chairman of the committee was elected, at his own suggestion, for one year. At Wrangell, when the question was raised in connection with the nominating Committee's report, Friend Bromley rose up in arms, and informed the Presbytery he was elected for three years. Of course, Friend Swogger had recorded the election so as to show no length of term. As there were so many new men in the Presbytery, there was none to challenge the record. So it prevails that Mr. Bromley will continue to be the chairman of the Committee until 1944, unless his retirement takes place before that time. He will be 65 years of age in October 1943.

*This is
Board-ward
news. We
have no
sent here
into being
needed.*

There is a seriousness in connection with the work in this Presbytery, that unless we can find a way of doing something about it, threatens the loss of several fields. Kluckwon, Kake, Craig, Klawock, and Saxman. At present, two Pentecostal women lay-workers are occupying our manse at Kluckwon. They are the same two who labored at Sitka for a while, and stole our chapel from us there. They will do the same thing at Kluckwon. The only way we can remove them from the manse is to put one of our workers in there. Severe competition is entering every one of these vacant fields. If at all possible, I would like to see workers sent into each of these fields. It looks as though we have fallen down on the training of lay-workers.

At the request of Mr. Bromley, The Presbytery is requesting the Synod of Washington to permit the ordination of George Betts at the next spring meeting of Presbytery. It appears that Mr. Betts studied some subjects under the direction of

Mr. Bromley, Mr. Pederson, and Mr. Webster. Otherwise, he has had little, or no, schooling.

It was very gracious of the Board of National Missions to give the Presbytery \$200.00 for the meeting of Presbytery. If you will pardon a friendly tip, I believe you will find it quite interesting to know just how this money was spent. Mr. Samuel Johnson of Angoon, gave the free use of his boat, except for the cost of fuel and food. Each person aside from the ministers was charged \$4.00 per head. A boat was chartered for \$35.00 to bring Mr. Swogger and Mr. Hall. \$36.00 was paid for transportation for Verne Swanson, who arrived on Saturday and returned when the meeting closed Sunday noon. \$20.00 was paid to the son of Samuel Johnson to act as engineer. The total cost for the trip was well under the \$200.00 mark. Upon the suggestion of Mr. Bromley, Mr. Swogger, and Mr. Betts, a purse of near \$50. was given Samuel Johnson, a fact which I feel was not exactly justified. I cannot help but feel that the Presbytery's use of National Missions aid for the meeting of Presbytery is loosely used and unjustified. I would like for you to see the itemized statement as produced by the Stated Clerk, that you may have it as a basis for future grants for this purpose.

On the return trip through Juneau, the ministers aboard stopped at Juneau for my installation service. It was well attended and a fine service.

The Young People's summer conference is to be held at Wrangell Institute, with Harry Champlin as dean. The Institute is giving the free use of their equipment, and free meals for the duration of the conference as guests of the Institute. The cost will be \$8.00 per person, as George Betts plans to use his boat charging only the cost of fuel and food. It appears I will be able to send about twelve young people from this Church.

With best wishes for a happy meeting of the General Assembly, I am

Cordially yours,

Willis

May 27, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. Willis R. Booth
Box 3020
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Willis:

Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter that I am sending to Uncle Bill. Any time that you can arrange to get to this Auk Lake section will be helpful. I cannot offer to pay you any salary but will be glad to take care of the travel expenses to and from the field. I am quite sure that you will be able to work out some helpful, constructive program for these people in connection with your own local folks.

Thanks for sending me the information about the set-up at Presbytery. I am writing to Mr. Swogger asking him to send me an itemized statement of the expenditure of the money.

In regard to what you say about losing the several fields named, I do not think it is too serious a matter. Craig and Klawock are difficult fields that we have not been able to man. The last three men that we placed there have stayed such a short time that I am beginning to feel that it does not justify us the expenditure to try to take care of this place. As the Pentecostals are serving these people, perhaps that is the way it ought to be. I understand that in Craig the Seventh Day Adventists are now at work. As to Saxman, this field has not yet been lost. Klukwan, according to Knudsen, would be better off if the Pentecostals would take it over and give a ministry to them. It is almost impossible for the person in Haines to properly administer to the church at Klukwan. At Kake, we have not been doing anything much there for so long that that would also be a difficult field to reorganize.

Of course, it is not easy to simply pull up stakes and move out of a mission point. However, when you say that you cannot do the job it may be just as well to sever a few places in an acceptable manner rather than to try to spread out so thin that you do not make very much of an impression any place.

I do appreciate your frank, honest letters. You are doing the job as I thought you would do it and you are giving me the information that makes it very helpful to properly administer the funds.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

